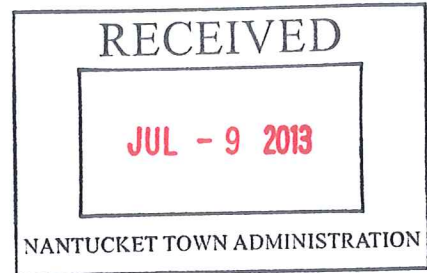


Dexter Paine  
P.O. Box 444  
Siasconset, MA 02564



John W. Atherton, Jr.  
Chairman  
Board of Selectman  
Town of Nantucket  
16 Broad Street  
Nantucket, MA 02554

July 8, 2013

Dear Rick,

I am a summer resident of Sconset, Nantucket taxpayer and homeowner on Baxter Road. My wife and my teenage son attended the BOS meeting on June 26th and said that you participated in the discussion and were quite vocal in your opposition to the MOU that was signed regarding Baxter Road and the homeowners attempt to work with the town to save Baxter Road. Given the personal conflicts of interest that you have in this matter, I was surprised that you then voted on the MOU and were the only vote in opposition to the motion.

I understand that you may have disclosed some of your relationships to various parties , however I would have expected you to recuse yourself from the matter, both the discussion and vote, given that you are a public official and a fiduciary who is expected to represent all Nantucketers. Personally I find it impossible to believe you can be fair and objective as Treasurer of the Quidnet/Squam Association, an organization that has publicly raised questions and concerns about the beach erosion project on Baxter Road. Your role as an officer of the Quidnet/Squam Association, which claims its members will be harmed by the project being outlined in the MOU, makes it troubling in my mind for you to decide on any matter related to this beach erosion project.

As equally troubling are public comments made by your immediate family member, Mrs. D. Anne Atherton, who is one of two coordinators for the Nantucket Coastal Conservancy and was quoted in the Nantucket Inquirer & Mirror prior to the BOS discussion regarding the MOU as saying:

*"The scope of the SBPF proposal that the town hard-armor the iconic Sconset Bluff with a rock revetment 20 feet high and 4,000 linear feet long, running from 53 Baxter Road up to the lighthouse, is stunning," Atherton wrote in an e-mail. "The potential damage to the Nantucket environment of such a hard structure, especially one without replacement sand to replicate what would be provided naturally to the coastal system by erosion, is stunning. The demands made by SBPF on the town are stunning. (Do it our way, and we will cooperate. Don't do it our way, and we will sue). The way SBPF disregards the common good in favor of its own private interests is stunning."*

Mrs. Atherton also sent out an email prior to the June 26<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting that read in part:

*"be prepared to attend Wednesday's meeting, if possible. We need to demonstrate to the Board that there is substantial resistance to hard armoring our natural coastline. We will continue to provide up-to-date information as this situation moves forward."*

I am surprised that a family member of the Chairman of the BOS can be so outspoken about an Island wide problem in front of the BOS and that the public can expect for the Chairman of the BOS to avoid a conflict on such matter. I believe under Robert's Rules of Order, which govern the BOS meetings:

" If a member has a direct personal or pecuniary (monetary) interest in a motion under consideration not common to other members, the rule in RONR is that he *should not* vote on such a motion."

In the corporate world (where I understand you were a senior officer of a large financial institution before you moved to Nantucket), the right action would be for the board chair to highlight the conflict to all parties, and to recuse himself on all matters relating to this conflict.

I think that you now owe it to the residents of all of Nantucket to make these conflicts known and to permanently recuse yourself from this matter. It is the right decision for you to make and you owe it as an elected official to all the members of the Nantucket Community.

Regards,



W. Dexter Paine

Cc     John Giorgio  
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       Kopelman and Paige, P.C.  
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